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**Imagery analysis report**

**38th Army, Beijing Military Region, China  
(TSRU)**

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**DECEMBER 1980**  
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<b>PROPIN-</b>	<b>Caution-Proprietary Information Involved</b>
<b>USIBONLY-</b>	<b>USIB Departments Only</b>
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**38TH ARMY, BEIJING MILITARY REGION, CHINA (TSR**

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**ABSTRACT**

1. (TSR) This report discusses the status of the 38th Army in the Beijing Military Region, China, as of 1 October 1980. It describes physical and functional changes to the facilities and order-of-battle changes for the period 1 December 1976 to 1 October 1980. The functions and locations of these units were derived from KEYHOLE imagery. Signal intelligence and human intelligence were used primarily for the determination of numbered unit designators.

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2. (TSR) During the period of this report, the most significant improvement/upgrading within the 38th Army was the addition of an S-type ponton bridge company to the army-level engineer battalion and to two of the three divisional engineer battalions. The remaining divisional engineer battalion, which previously had no river-crossing equipment, was brought up to strength with the addition of a TPP/LPP ponton bridge company. In addition, tank-firing ranges of sophisticated design were observed at two of the three divisional tank regiments. The presence of these firing ranges indicates a very high degree of training (by Chinese standards) and could also mean that the divisional tank regiments of the 38th Army are first-echelon units.

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3. (U) This report contains two location maps, eight annotated photographs, one chart, and one table.

**INTRODUCTION**

4. (TSR) The 38th Army<sup>1</sup> is one of eight main forces armies in the Beijing Military Region (MR) and has the same general organizational structure as other ground forces throughout China—the rule-of-three. This army, located along a southwest/northeast rail line (from Dingxian to Zhouxian) in the southeastern portion of the Beijing MR, is generally oriented toward the Sino-Soviet Border (Figure 1). The major units of the army (Figure 2) are a headquarters unit, centrally located at Baoding, and three infantry divisions (the 112th, 113th, and 114th).

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5. (TSR) The 38th Army was originally the 1st Column of the Northeast China People's Liberation Army.<sup>2</sup> As such, it was heavily involved in actions against the Nationalist Chinese during the period 1945 to 1948. In late 1948 and early 1949, the 1st Column became the 38th Army. By mid-1950, the 38th Army was

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**FIGURE 1. 38TH ARMY, BEIJING MILITARY REGION, CHINA**

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moved to northeast China and in October 1950 entered North Korea. Upon returning to China, the 38th Army was garrisoned in the Tonghua area of the Shenyang MR. In the spring of 1967, the 38th Army was relocated to its present position in the Baoding area of the Beijing MR.

6. (TSR [REDACTED]) During the nearly four-year period of this report, most of the units and installations of the 38th Army were imaged an average of two to three times a year. The most recent available imagery on this army [REDACTED]

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### BASIC DESCRIPTION

7. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 38th Army is made up of the army headquarters, the army-level support units, the 112th Infantry Division, the 113th Infantry Division, and the 114th Infantry Division (Chart 1 and Table 1).

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#### Headquarters and Army-level Support Units

8. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 38th Army Headquarters is at Baoding Headquarters Army Barracks AL-3. The army-level support units, also within the Baoding area, are made up of the 141st Artillery Regiment, an engineer battalion, and an antiaircraft regiment.

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9. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 141st Artillery Regiment, formerly housed at Mancheng Army Barracks AL-2, appeared to have vacated that facility sometime before the spring of 1979. The regiment appears to be presently garrisoned at Baoding Army Barracks AL-5 (Figure 3), where major elements of an artillery regiment have been observed since the summer of 1977. The Baoding facility had previously been associated with an army-level rocket launcher regiment.

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10. (TSR [REDACTED]) The army-level engineer battalion, formerly housed at Duancun Army Barracks AL-1 [REDACTED] appeared to have vacated that facility by the spring of 1979. This unit probably relocated to Mancheng Army Barracks AL-2 (Figure 4), as an engineer battalion containing an S-type ponton bridge company was identified there [REDACTED]. The fact that Mancheng Army Barracks AL-2 previously housed an army-level artillery regiment is an indication that the engineer battalion presently housed there is also an army-level unit. In addition, the S-type ponton bridge company observed at that installation is one of only three such units identified in the Beijing MR to date.

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11. (TSR [REDACTED]) The army-level antiaircraft artillery (AAA) regiment,<sup>1</sup> headquartered at Baoding Army Barracks East-northeast AL-13, has two subordinate AAA units with one at Baoding Army Barracks South-southwest AL-12 and one at Baoding Army Barracks North-northeast AL-14. This AAA regiment has remained largely unchanged since its identification in the fall of 1977.

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#### 112th Infantry Division

12. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 112th Infantry Division is made up of the division headquarters, divisional support units, the 317th Tank Regiment, the 392nd Artillery Regiment, the 334th Infantry Regiment, the 335th Infantry Regiment, and the 336th Infantry Regiment.

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13. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 112th Infantry Division is headquartered at Ligezhuang Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-1. In addition to the headquarters elements, this installation houses the 392nd Artillery Regiment. The installation has remained largely unchanged since 1976.

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14. (S/D) The divisional AAA regiment, housed at Zhuoxian Army Barracks West-southwest AL-7, has remained largely unchanged since its identification in the fall of 1977.

15. (S/D) The divisional engineer battalion, housed at Lai-shui Army Barracks West-northwest AL-1 (Figure 5), was improved with the addition of an S-type ponton bridge company. This company was identified [REDACTED] and is one of three such units which have been identified in the Beijing MR to date. [REDACTED] a river crossing exercise (incorporating a platoon of the S-type ponton bridge company) was observed at a reservoir, approximately 2 nautical miles (nm) northwest of this barracks area.

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16. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 317th Tank Regiment is garrisoned at Dingxing Army Barracks AL-2. Since 1976, this facility has been improved by the addition of an auditorium, four barracks, and three multibay vehicle storage buildings. The new multibay vehicle storage buildings have a total of 53 bays which probably shelter two tank battalions. In addition to these improvements, a moving target track and hardened firing platforms have been added to the tank subcaliber firing range. An armored vehicle training area for the 317th Tank Regiment is approximately 11 nm west of the regimental headquarters at Gucheng Armor Training Area. The major elements of a tank battalion have been observed consistently at this facility.

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17. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 334th and 336th Infantry Regiments, housed at Songlindian Army Barracks AL-1 and Dingxing Army Barracks AL-1, respectively, have remained relatively unchanged. However, an auditorium was added to the Dingxing facility.

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18. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 335th Infantry Regiment is housed at Zhangjiazhuang Army Barracks AL-2 (Figure 6). By the fall of 1977, a new battalion-sized barracks area, south-southwest of the regimental headquarters, was added to the installation. In addition to this improvement and upgrading, a second auditorium was also added to the regimental headquarters.

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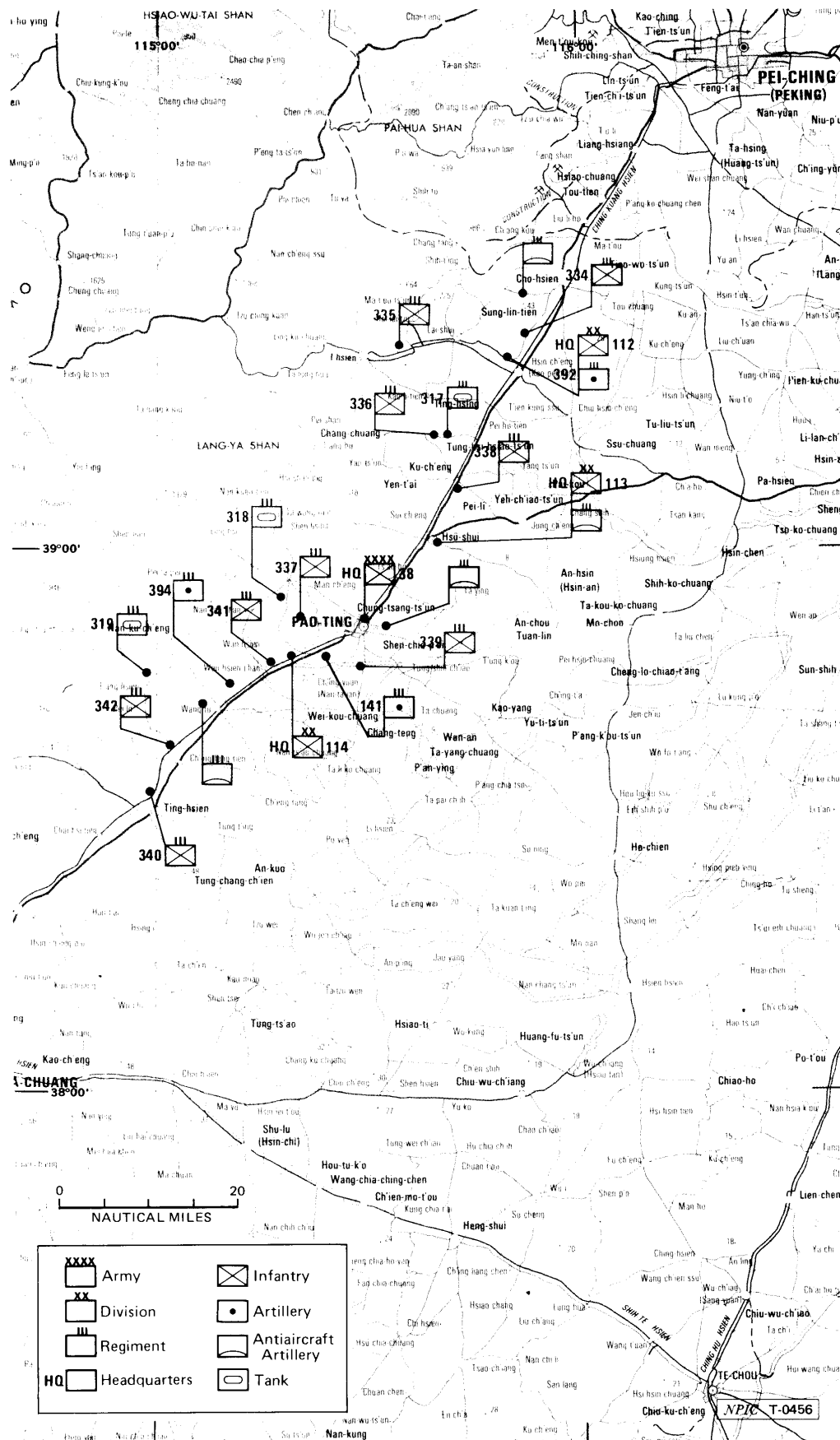


FIGURE 2. 38TH ARMY, UNIT LOCATIONS

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**113th Infantry Division**

19. (TSR [ ] The 113th Infantry Division is made up of the division headquarters, the divisional support units, the 318th Tank Regiment, the 337th Infantry Regiment, the 338th Infantry Regiment, and the 339th Infantry Regiment.

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20. (TSR [ ] The 113th Infantry Division is headquartered at Xushui Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-1. This installation has remained largely unchanged since 1977. In addition to the headquarters elements, it also houses the divisional AAA regiment and supposedly the 393rd Artillery Regiment. The existence and location of the artillery regiment, however, cannot be determined from available imagery.

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21. (S/D) The divisional engineer battalion, housed at Tongkou Army Barracks AL-1, was brought up to strength with the addition of a TPP/LPP ponton bridge company. Major elements of that company were identified in garrison [ ]

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22. (TSR [ ] The 318th Tank Regiment is garrisoned at Mancheng Army Barracks AL-5. Since 1976, this facility has been improved by the addition of one barracks, six vehicle/equipment storage buildings, and a tank subcaliber firing range. An armored vehicle training area for the 318th is approximately 2 nm west-southwest of the regimental headquarters at Mancheng Armor Training Area (Figure 7). This training area has a rather sophisticated tank-firing range made up of an oval, armored vehicle track and two very long, parallel moving-target tracks (approximately 900 meters in length) which are diagonal to the oval track. This type of firing range is probably for multiengagement training, whereby a tank crew would learn how to engage more than one target—either simultaneously (with different weapons systems) or on a priority basis (destroying the most dangerous target first).

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23. (TSR [ ] The 337th, 338th, and 339th Infantry Regiments, garrisoned at Baoding Army Barracks West AL-2, Gucheng Army Barracks AL-1, and Baoding Army Barracks AL-9, respectively, have remained largely unchanged since 1976.

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**114th Infantry Division**

24. (TSR [ ] The 114th Infantry Division is made up of the division headquarters, the divisional support units, the 319th Tank Regiment, the 394th Artillery Regiment, the 340th Infantry Regiment, the 341st Infantry Regiment, and the 342nd Infantry Regiment.

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25. (TSR [ ] The 114th Infantry Division is headquartered at Wangdu Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-14. This installation has remained largely unchanged since 1976.

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26. (S/D) The divisional AAA regiment, garrisoned at Wangdu Army Barracks AL-7 [ ] has remained largely unchanged since the unit was identified at that installation in the fall of 1977. Area A3 of this installation, previously identified as Wangdu Army Barracks East AL-6 [ ] was once considered to be the only garrison for the entire divisional AAA unit.

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27. (S/D) The divisional engineer battalion, formerly housed at Dongdun Headquarters Army Barracks AL-1 [ ] moved from that facility sometime [ ] which was the last date engineer equipment could be confirmed there. This engineer battalion was probably moved to Dingxian Army Barracks West (Figure 8), as an engineer battalion, containing an S-type ponton bridge company, was first identified there [ ] This S-type ponton bridge company is one of only three such units identified in the Beijing MR to date.

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28. (TSR [ ] The 319th Tank Regiment is garrisoned at Tangxian Army Barracks and Training Area AL-1 (Figure 9). Since 1976, this installation has been improved by the addition of two administration buildings and a tank subcaliber firing range. In addition to these improvements, an elaborate tank firing range was added to one of the two armor training areas associated with this installation. This firing range consists of an oval, armored vehicle track and four moving target tracks; each of the target tracks is uniquely diagonal to the oval track. Also, three of the target tracks are very long (approximately 900 meters in length); the remaining target track is approximately 400 meters long. As discussed in paragraph 22, this type of firing range is probably intended for multiengagement training.

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29. (TSR [ ] The 394th Artillery Regiment, housed at Wangdu Army Barracks AL-1, was upgraded with the addition of a BM-14/19 multiple rocket launcher battalion (Figure 10). This MRL battalion was first sighted [ ]

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30. (TSR [ ] The 340th, 341st, and the 342nd Infantry Regiments housed at Dingxian Army Barracks North AL-2, Wangdu Army Barracks AL-3, and Wangdu Army Barracks AL-5, respectively, have remained largely unchanged since 1976.

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**Table 1.**  
**38th Army Units as Derived from All-source Information**

*This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF*

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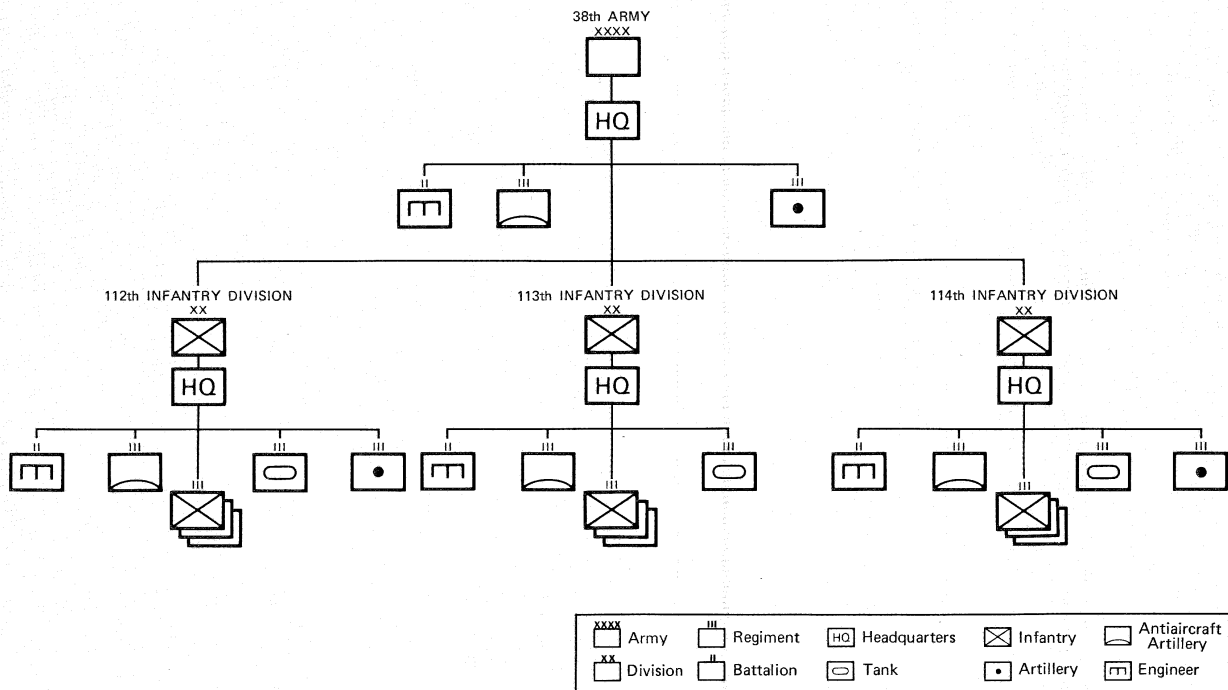
Unit	Installation	Coordinates	BE Number	Remarks		
38th Army Headquarters and Support Units						
38th Army Headquarters	Baoding Hq Army	38-52-37N		This engr bn was formerly housed at Duancun Army Bks AL-1 prior to the spring of 1979; it is one of three units in the Beijing MR having S-type ponton bridge companies		
	A Bks AL-3	115-30-19E				
141st Artillery Regiment	Baoding Army Bks	38-48-08N				
	AL-5	115-22-13E				
AAA regiment	Baoding Army Bks	38-52-33N				
headquarters	ENE AL-13	115-32-25E				
AAA unit	Baoding Army Bks	38-51-55N				
	SSW AL-12	115-53-45E				
AAA unit	Baoding Army Bks	38-53-20N				
	NNE AL-14	115-31-20E				
Engineer battalion	Mancheng Army Bks	38-59-40N				
	AL-2	115-17-43E				
112th Infantry Division						
112th Infantry Division	Ligezhuang Hq Inf	39-21-34N		The major elements of a tank bn have consistently been observed at this facility		
Hq	Div A Bks AL-1	115-49-41E				
392nd Artillery Regiment	Ligezhuang Hq Inf	39-21-34N				
	Div A Bks AL-1	115-49-41E				
AAA regiment	Zhuoxian Army Bks	39-28-20N				
	WSW AL-7	115-54-25E				
317th Tank Regiment	Dingxing Army Bks	39-12-42N				
Hq	AL-2	115-44-18E				
317th Tank Regiment	Gucheng Armor	39-12-20N				
Training	Tng Area	115-29-30E				
334th Infantry Regiment	Songlindian Army	39-23-59N				By the fall of 1977, a new battalion-sized barracks area was added to this installation; six FA pieces have consistently been observed with the facility since 1977
	Bks AL-1	115-52-36E				
335th Infantry Regiment	Zhangjiazhuang	39-22-01N				
	Army Bks AL-2	115-32-41E				
336th Infantry Regiment	Dingxing Army	39-12-26N				
	Bks AL-1	115-41-58E				
Engineer battalion	Lai-shui Army Bks	39-24-30N				
	WNW AL-1	115-37-50E				
113th Infantry Division						
113th Infantry Division	Xushui Hq Inf	39-00-42N		The 393rd Arty Regt is supposedly housed at this installation; however, the existence/location of the regiment cannot be determined from available imagery.		
Hq	Div A Bks AL-1	115-39-21E				
393rd Artillery Regiment	Xushui Hq Inf	39-00-42N				
	Div A Bks AL-1	115-39-21E				
AAA regiment	Xushui Hq Inf	39-00-42N				
	Div A Bks AL-1	115-39-21E				
318th Tank Regiment	Mancheng Army	38-55-53N			Since 1976, one barracks, six vehicle/equipment storage buildings, and a tank subcaliber firing-range have been added to the installation	
Hq	Bks AL-5	115-17-07E				
318th Tank Regiment	Mancheng Armor	38-55-20N				This training area has a sophisticated tank-firing range made up of an oval track and two long parallel moving target tracks (approximately 900 meters in length) which is diagonal to the oval track
Training area	Tng Area	115-14-45E				
337th Infantry Regiment	Baoding Army Bks	38-51-14N				
	West AL-2	115-23-11E				
338th Infantry Regiment	Gucheng Army Bks	39-06-56N				
	AL-1	115-42-06E				
339th Infantry Regiment	Baoding Army Bks	38-47-50N				
	AL-9	115-28-33E				
Engineer Battalion	Tongkou Army Bks	38-47-55E		A TPP/LPP ponton bridge company was added to this engr bn		
	AL-1	115-44-00E				

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**114th Infantry Division**

114th Infantry Division	Wangu Hq Inf	38-48-17N
Hq	Div A Bks AL-14	115-19-03E
394th Artillery Regiment	Wangu Army Bks AL-1	38-44-19N
		115-10-09E
AAA regiment	Wangu Army Bks AL-7	38-42-53N
		115-06-34E

319th Tank Regiment	Tangxian Army Bks AL-1	38-46-17N
		114-59-16E

340th Infantry Regiment	Dingxian Army Bks North AL-2	38-32-52N
		114-59-52E
341st Infantry Regiment	Wangu Army Bks AL-3	38-47-36N
		115-15-42E
342nd Infantry Regiment	Wangu Army Bks AL-5	38-38-21N
		115-02-07E
Engineer Battalion	Dingxian Army Bks West	38-30-30N
		114-57-40E

The 394th Arty Regt was upgraded with a BM-14/19 MRL bn.

Area A3 of this installation, formerly identified as Wangu Army Bks east AL-6, was previously considered to be the sole garrison for the entire divisional AAA regt.

Since 1976, two administration buildings and a tank subcaliber firing range have been added to this installation; one of the two armor training areas at this installation has been improved with an elaborate tank-firing range.

This engr bn was formerly housed at Dongdun Hq Army Bks AL-1. This engr bn was improved with the addition of one of the three S-type ponton bridge companies that have been identified in the BeijingMR to date.

**REFERENCES****MAPS**

US Air Target Chart. Series 200; Sheets 0382-5, -8, and -10; scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

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3. CIA. [redacted] INFR, MILITARY, AAA Regiment 27th and 38th Armies, Oct 78 (TOP SECRET R)

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